

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### **STATE BOARD APPROVES PROPOSAL BY STATE SUPERINTENDENT HORNE FOR “ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS” PILOT PROJECT**

PHOENIX (Wednesday, December 08, 2004) The State Board of Education today approved a proposal by State Superintendent Tom Horne for a pilot project for “alternative pathways.” Alternative pathways is a method by which people with bachelors degrees wishing to change careers and become teachers can do so without having to go back to school and leaving the labor force.

Horne stated: “There are a number of people with high content knowledge who would like to teach: biologists who would like to teach biology, engineers who would like to teach mathematics, etc. It used to be that they would have to take two years out of their career to go back to school and most could not afford to do that. Under this pilot project, they will have intensive training in the summertime in how to teach, and will go right into the classroom, and will receive heavy mentoring. If they are successful, they eventually become certified as teachers.”

The pilot program will allow ten programs, twenty teachers per program for each of two years, for a total of 400 teachers. A school district will partner with an institution of higher education, or a county superintendent of schools, to propose a program that will have to be approved by the Department of Education. Programs are limited to proposed high school teachers with a bachelors degree and strong content knowledge in the subject that they propose to teach. If the pilot is successful, then the Board can adopt a general rule to permit similar programs.

The State Board today also approved a proposal by Superintendent Horne to allow students who do not pass the AIMS test, prior to the normal time for graduation from high school, to be able to take the test as many times as they want after the normal time for graduation. They would obtain a diploma once they show proficiency in the three areas of reading, writing, and mathematics.

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